12th Anniversary Issue

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See p.2

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MAY 2002

Mayor and Police stop dialogue on ordinances targeting poor and homeless

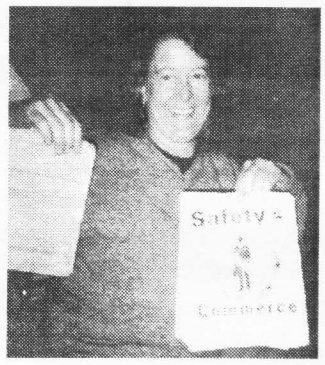
Pat Tassoni

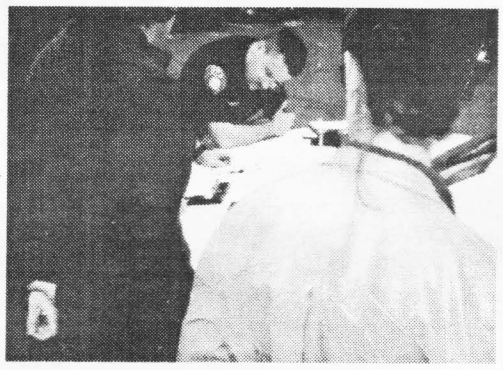
As many of you know, the Olympia city council has recently proposed a number of ordinances targeting the poor in our community. These ordinances include a ban on car camping, a ban on camping, a trespassing ordinance that would allow the police to bar an individual from entry to public parks for up to two months, a no panhandling zone and a no sale of fortified wine zone. The city claims it is responding to complaints from business' as presented by the Olympia Downtown [business] Association.

For six months as this was taking form there was no public input into the process. Then the city held a Community Conversation on it and the overwhelming response from the public participants was to deal with the underlying issues of poverty rather than criminalizing homelessness.

Then Mayor Biles decided to ignore the public input and push the ordinances as the solution in an audacious Editorial in the *Olympian*, thereby throwing all the public testimony into the trash. And he has garnered support with Letters to the Editor suggesting we euthanize the homeless or send them on a busride to nowhere. Biles has the gall to call that "the Olympia Way"!

This escalation on Biles part, by cutting off public input and reasonable dialogue, and the rest of the city council's passive silence on it has prompted ordinance opponents to take creative steps to further the debate much to the dismay of the Olympia Police.





Left: Activist Monica Peabody posing with citation and 'illegal' poster

Right: Police figure it out as activists, Steve Hughes and Meta Hogan wait, looking on

On the Friday ArtsWalk, Olympia police officers Bakala and Costello cited three activists who were legally exercising their freedom of speech by hanging up posters in clear violation of the "Commercial" Bill Posting ordinance.

The police targeted the activists because of the content of their poster which stimulated further community conversation about downtown safety issues. The police wanted to follow through with what they saw as a mandate set by Biles to end the discussion; and by citing activists they effectively shut down public dialogue on the ordinances and the poverty issues it touches on at a time when it was most important to dialogue with the thousands of people that came downtown for ArtsWalk and who felt safe there despite the Mayor's, the city's and the ODA's recent campaign to portray downtown as unsafe.

Undeterred, activists postered again during Saturday's ArtsWalk, two of whom were detained by officers Beckwell and Smith; but after some initial confusion on the police's part, the activists were released without citations. The activists continued to exercise their freedom of speech -- now legally recognized -- and postered into the night.

On the following Monday, the city's Prosecuting Attorney sent an Order of Dismissal to those who were cited, ending any legitimacy to the officers' claim. But the damage has already been done — a lost opportunity to dialogue with thousands that will never be recovered; and the impacts of which may ultimately sway the final decision concerning the ordinances. At presstime a civil suit on behalf of the activists has not been filed.

Fight the Pipeline through Olympia

WIP News Service

Do you want a natural gas pipeline in your local park, or your backyard?

Local citizens are joining together in opposition to a proposed natural gas pipeline. The Williams Pipeline Company is planning a 49-mile, 20-inch natural gas pipeline from Rainier to Satsop, straight through Olympia! Construction begins June 1st.

The pipeline will adversely impact sensitive local habitat for six threatened and endangered species including: Northwest Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and Oregon Spotted Frog.

It will cross rivers, streams, and wetlands 37 times. Including the popular McLane Creek Nature Trail and The Black River National Wildlife Refuge.

Thurston County does not have safety regulations regarding natural gas pipelines, and does not have the authority to consider safety issues as part of its permitting process. Safety concerns raised by local citizens have not been addressed. The local community has been left out of the decision making process!!

Fifty percent of this 20-inch pipeline will be built right alongside a pre-existing older gas pipeline built in the 1950's, in an area where seismic activity is present!

...currently being sued by California for price manipulation; by their stockholders and employees, for Enron-like financial dealings; by the Dept. Of Justice for Clean Air Act violations.

What benefit would this have for our local community...? NONE!

Most of the power generated from the Satsop plant will be sold on the wholesale power market and for distribution to other states.

Electric power plants generate more carbon dioxide (CO_2) than any other source in the United States, and are therefore the leading contributors to global warming.

The Duke Energy run Combustion Turbine Plant in Satsop will only employ 27 people when it becomes operational.

Both Tulsa based Williams Co. and North Carolina based Duke Energy are currently being sued by the State of California for price manipulation. The Williams Co. is currently being sued by their stockholders, and employees, for Enron-like financial dealings! Duke Energy is being sued by the Dept. Of Justice for Clean Air Act violations. Are these the kinds of companies we want doing business in our community?

Local citizens need to let The Williams Corporation and Duke Energy know that this will not be as easy as they think!! To find out how you can help Fight The Pipeline email us at: fightthepipeline@yahoo.com

For Web info on this pipeline and pipeline safety go to: http://www.efsec.wa.gov/ and http://ops.dot.gov/ Energy statistics and Info: http://www.eia.doe.gov/ ◆

Events on and around Mayday

The Mayday Action Committee creates a forum in the community for citizens to coordinate decentralized events leading up to and including the Mayday Celebration.

MAC's goals include:

*Creating community solidarity,
*Raising awareness of Mayday's working class and pagan history,
*Facilitating educational dialogues within the community and supporting efforts to overcome oppression, and
*Envisioning alternative economic/social possibilities while empowering the community to think critically and transform our surroundings.

- - - April 27 - - -

9am-6:15pm Workshops galore at TESC as part of the **Total Liberation Project**. http://olynetwork.org/totalliberation/

2pm **Neighborhoods Fight Back** at the Olympian newpaper community room. A forum for citizens to learn from each other's experiences resisting development proposals in their neighborhoods. http://olynetwork.org/mayday/

- - - April 28 - - -

9am-6pm **Organizing for Justice and Peace Conference** at TESC Longhouse. Speakers: Grace Chang and Robert Meeropol. Workshops include Domestic Repression, Middle East and U.S. Foreign Policy, and much more. www.omjp.org.

7:30-9:30pm **Bankrupting Democracy; the other Chapter 11** at Traditions Fair Trade, 300 5th Ave SW, a discussion of NAFTA 's Chapter 11 and a showing of Bill Moyer 's film "Trading Democracy."

- - - April 29 - - -

1-8pm **Forum on the 1st Amendment** at TESC in Library 4300, a discussion on free speech and individual rights. www.theolympian.com

- - - April 30 - - -

7-9pm **You Get What You Pay For** at the Olympia Center in rooms 101&102.Come hear members of the Carpenters Union and environmental activists tell the untold story of the 4th Ave. Bridge Project. www.olywa.net/speech

- - - May 1 - - -

10am-12pm Come install a raised bed garden with **Garden Raised Bounty** (GRuB) at the Mud Bay Granary (2410 Harrison Ave.). Work party at Sister Holly Garden to follow.

2:22pm **Reclaim the Streets** convergence at Sylvester Park, Bigelow Park, and old Value Village. Critical Mass rides from Oly Transit Center.

5:30/6ish **Vigil** at Percival Landing for workers internationally.

6:30pm **Community Street Fair** on Bethel between 4th and State (in front of the Olympian). Music, food, and fun for all ages. Join with a tent city to be erected in support of Olympia 's homeless community.

- - - May 2 - - -

6pm **Olympia New Town of People** hosts a potluck at City Hall, 800 Plum St. SE

- - - May 3-5 - - -

Gender and Sexuality Conference. http://olynetwork.org/gendersexcon/

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! /Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!/

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Margaret Love
Chelsea Chase	Sandy Mayes
Sebastian Chase	Hali Panneton
Tom Chenhall	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah
Jerome Johnson	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 24th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, May 27th 6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

Everyone Welcome!

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
phone/fax (360) 705-2726
wip@olywa.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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Bus Shelter Re-Installed

Shortly after the article appeared in last month's *Works In Progress* the owner of the Medicine Shoppe had the bus shelter re-installed after they had had it originally removed. The shelter is by no means safe as the Medicine Shoppe may ask for it to be removed again if they are unsatisfied with the maintenence of it. Intercity Transit has increased their cleaning routine to accomodate this request. Consumer and busrider agitation can be credited at least in part for the re-installation.

Community Sustaining Fund

The Community Sustaining Fund, is accepting proposals for its spring grant cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oreinted activities. The deadline for submitting completed grant applications is Friday, May 3, 2002. Seven copies of the proposal should be mailed to the Community Sustaining Fund, 2103 Harrison Ave. N.E., Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502, or delivered to Traditions Fair Trade, 300 Fifth Ave. S.W., Olympia. Applications available from Traditions or www.traditionsfairtrade.com. Also find out how you can help and/or financially contribute!

Weekly peace vigils

PEACE VIGIL, noon to 1 p.m. in NW corner of Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way) EVERY WEDNESDAY. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Please come for all or part of the hour to witness for peace and nonviolence. Sponsor: Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation Info: 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

PEACE VIGIL, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on 4th Ave near the fountain EVERY FRIDAY. Our demeanor and signs are friendly and positive, urging lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq and promoting peace and human rights in light of the current international crisis. Olympia FOR provides signs or you may bring your own. Info: call 867-1731 or 491-9093. E-Mail: glen@olywa.net

Doing Time, Doing Vipassana

A Documentary Film

Thursday, May 9th, 7-9 p.m. at The Evergreen State College, Lecture Hall 1.

Sunday, May 19th, 1-3 p.m. at the Olympia Yoga Center, 1009 4th Ave. E (limited chairs, please bring cushions).

Wednesday, May 29th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Olympia Timberland Regional Library Meeting Room, 313 8th Ave. SE

Sunday, June 9th, 2-4 p.m. at the Capitol Theater, 206 5th Ave. SE.

Doing Time, Doing Vipassana is an award-winning documentary that takes viewers into India's largest prison- known as one of the toughest in the world- and shows the dramatic change brought about by the introduction of vipassana meditation. This extremely moving film is a poignant reflection on the relationships between inner peace and social justice. For more information, please contact Van Shafer at 360-352-4938 or email goenkainolympia@hotmail.com

Nike and Adidas haven't stopped sweatshop abuses

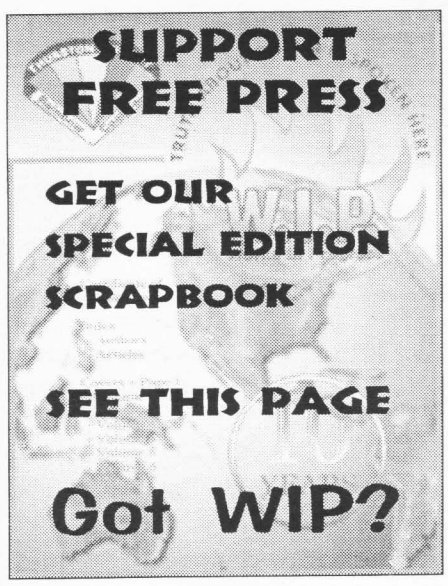
Indonesian workers producing sports shoes for Nike and Adidas still:

* are subjected to verbal abuse, intrusive physical examinations and dangerous conditions.
* live in extreme poverty and face prosecution and physical assault for trade union activity
* are forced to work long hours, and parents with children often have to send them away to be brought up by relatives.

"Nike is paying the golfer Tiger Woods $100m (£70m) for a five-year endorsement contract. But full-time workers at its factories are paid as little as $2 (£1.40) a day."

Source: *Independent/UK*

Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 10 Years



Subscriptions: ☐ Individual ... $35 ☐ Low-Income ...$15

Merchandise: ☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____

☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook . . . $15 each

☐ Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each (while supplies last)

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MAY 2002

Gary Locke's Political Revenge

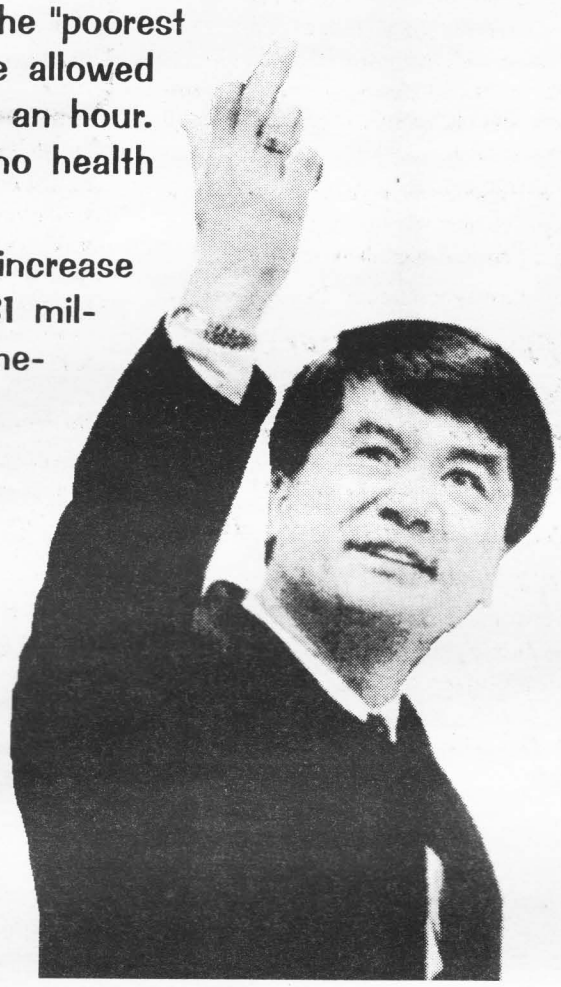
This year, the Washington legislature wanted to raise the pay of the "poorest of the working poor" 25 cents an hour. The increase would have allowed thousands of home health care workers to earn a whopping $7.93 an hour. Of course they would still have no sick days, no paid vacation, no health insurance, no retirement...

It also happened that lawmakers didn't pass "a small liquor tax increase as part of its budget-balancing plan" that would have brought in $31 million in state taxes. Locke said that the loss would be made up somehow and this is where the story becomes interesting.

Locke saved $4.2 million vetoing the 25 cent raise for home health care workers. Funny thing is, Locke's vetoes saved a total of $37 million. That's $6 million more than needed.

According to Peter Callaghan of *The News Tribune*, Locke blames one man for the failure to increase the liquor tax, House Speaker Frank Chopp. "And which legislator was the champion of the home-care workers and their pay raise? That would be House Speaker Frank Chopp."

Makes one wonder who at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts ticked off Gov. Locke. Oops, forgot, it's not a sports arena, is it?



Sources: *The News Tribune; The Seattle P-I; The Seattle Times; Graphic by PatT*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
It's bad enough that the workers live in abject and sometimes life-threatening poverty, but the low wage rates that workers are paid compound the quality care problem in our home care system. David Rolf, S.E.I.U.			**1** **1964**: LBJ predicts a future woman president **2001**: 300 May Day participants celebrate at Harrison and Division, and plant a garden	**2** **1999**: NATO missile strikes civilian bus **2001**: Olympia city workers bulldoze the garden planted during May Day celebration	**3** **1963**: Children stage protest marches for 2nd day in Birmingham. Are assaulted by dogs and powerful streams of water from fire hoses	**4** **1961**: First "Freedom Riders" set out by bus to test segregation barriers in the South **1970**: Kent State student killings by Na. Guard
5 **1925**: John T Scopes arrested for teaching the theory of evolution **1960**: U-2 incident: US spy plane shot down in Soviet Union	**6** **1997**: Chehalis students protest removal of gay speaker **1998**: Elma school board votes allows man to speak on creationism	**7** **1999**: 3 NATO missiles slam into Chinese embassy in Belgrade **2001**: California has 1st rolling blackouts since March	**8** **1999**: NATO blame embassy bombing on "intelligence failure" **2001**: WA senate votes to prohibit day-use fees at state parks	**9** **2001**: WA Dept of Ecology reports bacterial contamination of the Skokomish River puts Hood Canal shellfish at risk	**10** **2000**: S Carolina house votes to remove Confederate flag from capitol dome **2001**: Boeing selects Chicago for new HQ	**11** **1963**: Home of MLK, Jr's brother/ integrated hotel in Birmingham is bombed **2001**: McVeigh's execution is delayed
12 **2001**: 1,000 members at the WEA convention in Spokane vote no confidence in Governor Locke and the WA state legislature	**13** **2001**: The Dalai Lama speaks before 25,000 in Portland, OR **2001**: Mothers protest development of vacant lot (Division/Harrison)	**14** **2001**: Harvard study finds Blacks who make up about 6% of drug users in King County account for 57% of adult drug arrests	**15** **1916**: US Marines land in Santo Domingo to quell civil disorder **2000**: Thurston County Commissioners allow roadside memorials	**16** **1999**: FBI announces crime rate continues to fall for seventh straight year **1999**: NATO bombs sites inside Kosovo	**17** **1961**: Castro offers prisoners captured in Bay of Pigs invasion for 500 US Heavy tractors **1999**: Makah successful in taking first whale	**18** **1910**: Halley's Comet passes over the sun, frightening many hundreds of thousands of people throughout the United States
19 **1536**: Anne Boleyn beheaded by Henry VIII **1856**: Sen. Sumner of Massachusetts gives his "Crime Against Kansas" speech	**20** **1961**: Mob attacks Freedom Riders **1996**: Supreme Court rules Colorado law forbidding protection for gays is unconstitutional	**21** **1961**: Gov. declares martial law in Montgomery **1997**: Olympia City Council reduces parking time in downtown	**22** **1995**: Supreme Court bans term limits **2001**: EPA fines Fort Lewis $60,000 instead of $470,000 for over 100 violations	**23** **2001**: King County is forced by arbitrator to reinstate sheriff's deputy who indiscriminately sprayed citizens with pepper spray	**24** **1961**: Freedom Riders arrested in Mississippi **2001**: Striking state workers shut down Evergreen; most classes are canceled	**25** **1943:** Riot at Mobile, AL shipyard over upgrading black workers **1999**: NATO approves larger ground force; airstrikes continue
26 **1998**: Supreme Court rules police not responsible for injuries in high-speed chases unless their actions "shock the conscience"	**27** **1998**: Group revives bid to add fluoride to Olympia water supply **2000**: Ulster Unionist party votes for joint coalition w/ Catholics	**28** **1915**: In Berlin women demonstrate for peace **1999**: Commerce Dept announces personal savings rate at all-time low: minus 0.7%	**29** **1995**: Clinton vows to "leave no stone unturned" to find out what happened to MIA's in Vietnam and earlier wars	**30** **2001**: FTC decides not to take any action against Amazon for deceiving customers by secretly collecting personal information	**31** **1912**: American Marines land in Cuba to protect U S property **1999**: NATO missiles kill 16 in hospital and retirement home	*He's slapped us in the face and told us we're not worth a n y t h i n g . Zookeepers make more than us.* Linda Carrillo

Bringing the Message to the Beast's Belly -- A20 in Washington, DC

Ron Jacobs

This was a demonstration I had to attend. The madmen running the world were in a severe state of psychosis and threatening to take us all down with them. I'd made plans to be on one of the buses going to DC a few weeks ago. Then Ariel Sharon unleashed his military assault on the people in the Occupied Territories, killing civilians left and right, trashing their homes, schools, churches, marketplaces and anything else that his "moral" army felt like trashing in the name of colonial expansion. I knew I had to go and there was nothing short of a catastrophic illness that would prevent me. So I hopped on the bus the night of April 19th.

When I got back to this rally it had more than doubled in size. From my vantage point, I could see both the ANSWER and the A20 Stop the War rallies.

Speaking of the Israeli invasion of Palestine. Rumors of dissension in the organizers' ranks of one of the primary organizations putting this protest together over Israel's actions had filtered up to us in the northern lands. Supposedly, there were those in the A20 Stop the War coalition who didn't want to condemn Israel's death and destruction, considering this violation of every human right justified. If this was true, it meant that once again the Zionist apologists in the peace movement were attempting to convince the rest of us that any war Israel fought was not to be considered a war. How this dynamic works I have never been certain. What's good for the USA goose is also good for the Israeli gander if you ask me. Wars of expansion are wars of expansion. Israel is the US bulldog in the Middle East, no matter what we are told about it being the other way around. Israel is immorally occupying territories with US funds and support in violation of international law. If the situation were reversed, one could be damn certain that the US would be calling for war against the Palestinian invaders. To use Washington's reasoning, Israel's occupation of Palestine is as illegal as Iraq's 1990 occupation of Kuwait. Yet, of course, US bombers are not bombing Tel Aviv.

On Friday the 19th of April, I showed up at the meeting place we had been given by the Burlington AntiWar Coalition. Dozens of other folks were there, as were two chartered buses and several vans. Young and old and representing a variety of concerns ranging from peace to opposition to capitalist globalization, we talked amongst ourselves until the drivers were ready. Then we boarded our vehicles and headed into the Vermont night. Our bus stopped at three more Vermont towns to pick up another three dozen protestors before we hit the open highway. All in all, close to two hundred Vermonters traveled in this set of arranged rides. Probably another hundred or so went down in their own vehicles or on other forms of transport.

After a ten hour ride that went smoothly except for a bit of a slowdown around New York City due to road work taking place on the George Washington Bridge, we disembarked at the New Carrolton Metro stop—a mere six stops from the Federal Triangle—a point almost in the center of where the four feeder rallies were to occur. Once out of the metro, I bought a coffee or two and headed over to the Ellipse with Will Miller and few other compatriots. This was where the largest of the scheduled opening rallies was to be held. It was sponsored by the ANSWER coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism)—a loose- knit coalition of anti-war, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and Palestinian support organizations organized under the auspices of the International Action Center.

The other three rallies were organized somewhat along these lines: A20 Stop the War—a coalition of peace and youth groups originally called by the Youth and Student Mobilization for Peace and Justice, the Mobilization for Global Justice—an adhoc conglomeration of groups opposed to capitalist globalization featuring many of the folks and groups involved in every anti-capitalist rally from Seattle on, and the Palestine Solidarity Coalition—exactly what it sounds like, this rally was organized by groups in support of the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist government of Israel. Somewhat secular in nature, it espoused many of the same demands as those put forth at the ANSWER rally.

Anyhow, our group arrived at the ANSWER rally on the Ellipse and made plans to meet back up later. I headed off to make my rounds of the literature tables that were springing up on the edge of the growing crowd. When I first arrived I estimated approximately 3000 people had preceded me. As I wandered around, more and more protestors streamed into the sunny green just south of the White House. Some carried signs opposing the war on Afghanistan and Colombia. Other signs called for an end to the detention of the those rounded up in the wake of 911 and in Camp Xray in Cuba. Still others had buttons spoofing the idiocy of GW Bush and the Puritan fascism of John Ashcroft. The dominant symbol of the day, however, were the Palestinian flags, stickers, and t-shirts that simply said Free Palestine. It was becoming obvious that this day was going to be one of those times when the events in the world superseded any plans the organizers may have had—the demand for a liberated Palestine was going to be the order of the day. The blatant disregard for the humanity of the Palestinians by Israel's army in the past weeks had finally been enough. People in the United States were going to address this issue and bring it home that the occupation and its terror would no longer be ignored.

The people just kept coming. Muslim families with the women in full burqa from Islamic centers and mosques around the country, young Arab and Arab- American men and women dressed in the current style of American teenagers with the red, black, green and white Palestinian flag tied around their neck like a cape, African-Americans wearing the red, black and green of Africa on their shirt and a small Palestinian flag stuck in their headgear, Asian-Americans, Latinos, members of Jewish congregations carrying signs opposing the occupation, and lots of white folk. They just kept streaming in, occasionally breaking out in chants, with the most popular being Free, Free Palestine and End the Occupation, Now! Occasionally one heard Allah Akbar—God is Great, or a modified version of one of the standard antiwar chants. The sound came and went like waves in the steamy heat. I think I can accurately state that I have never been at an antiwar rally in this country where there were so many shades of skin tone and cultures represented.

The speeches began around 11 AM and, after a few of them, I decided to go check out the other rallies. This wasn't because I didn't want to hear at least some of the speakers, especially Pakistani writer and activist Tariq Ali, but because I had vowed to attend as many of the feeder rallies as possible. So I headed over to the Sylvan Theatre near the Washington Monument, which is where the rally sponsored by the A20 Stop the War Coalition was going on. As I ambled over in that direction I noticed a stage with perhaps 500 people gathered around it. This was the so-called Patriot's rally. It was sponsored by a right-wing group calling itself the Free Republic and, from what I could hear, spent most of its time labeling the antiwar/anti-capitalist protestors "parasites" and quoting George Washington and Tom Paine in a context that gave new and most likely unintended meaning to these men's words. Interestingly enough, as I had moved out of hearing distance of the ANSWER rally, I heard George Washington being quoted there, too. The ANSWER speaker was referring to Washington's warnings against the potential for tyranny by government. At day's end, the only thing one could honestly say about this so- called Patriot's rally was that it had the best sound system and the smallest crowd.

Walking past the lines of tourists waiting to get into the Washington Monument and the new concrete barriers all around the structure, I began to hear a reggae beat emanating from the A20 Stop the War Coalition stage. Upon reaching the rally site, I was struck immediately by two things—the smell of burning sage and the difference in the rally's makeup. There was a much higher percentage of young people, which stood to make sense since one the original members of the coalition was a nationwide youth and student organization founded in the wake of 911 and devoted to opposing war and terrorism. In addition, there were many older pacifists in the crowd, at the tables around the edges and on the stage. This was a more traditional US peace rally- mostly white-skinned, mostly younger, and mostly middle-class. Nothing wrong with that, for sure, but a remarkable contrast to the gathering a few hundred meters away. I wandered the crowd of 20,000 or so looking for familiar faces and listening to the music for another 30 minutes. Then I headed towards the Palestine Solidarity Rally. This rally was about a mile further on near Dupont Circle, which is in the Georgetown District of DC. Unfortunately I never made it to the rally, for, as I was heading that way, I saw a march leaving from the rally site and headed towards the A20 Stop the War rally. Apparently, these two groups were to meet up there and then converge with the ANSWER rally on Pennsylvania Avenue. Assuming that since I had missed one feeder rally already and that I would probably miss the other one called by the anti-capitalist demonstrators who were in town to protest the war and the IMF/ World Bank spring meetings occurring that weekend, I headed back to the ANSWER rally, hoping to catch the last few speakers.

When I got back to this rally it had more than doubled in size. There were easily 50,000 people in the Ellipse and more were still streaming in. As buses from all over the country parked and their passengers disembarked, the crowd grew larger and louder. It was pretty much impossible to hear the speakers. Too bad we couldn't have ripped off the sound system from the right-winger's rally across the way. From my vantage point near the southeast corner of the Ellipse, I could see both the ANSWER and the A20 Stop the War rallies. As I listened to clerics from Islamic, Jewish and Christian churches, temples and mosques express solidarity and support for Palestine and offer a prayer to the God of Abraham, I watched marchers from the anti-capitalist and Palestinian solidarity march converge with the participants of the A20 Stop the War rally. As these folks begin to line up in 14th street, the clerics held their joined hands together in a jubilant celebration of humanity's possibilities. Then, we began to line up on 14th Street ourselves. By the time all the marches had converged near the corner of 14th and Pennsylvania, the march itself stood forty abreast and several city blocks long. The chants of Free Palestine! End the Occupation! and with calls for an end to the terrorism of the US "war on terrorism" and money for social services and rebuilding instead of war were heard throughout Washington, DC. Each corner where the march turned was guarded by police two rows deep, some on horses and some on motorcycles—all of them in full riot gear, yet with their visors back and many with smiles on their faces. It was loud, it was large and it was amazing. I had not been at a demonstration this spirited and large since one I attended in 1974 demanding Richard Nixon's impeachment.

I stood on a small hill for ten minutes watching the parade. I never saw the beginning or the end of it while on that perch. I figured there were easily 75,000 to 100,000 participants. There were probably more, since the mainstream media and park police put in estimates of 70,000 and they are notorious for underestimating crowds of this nature. Either way, the events of this day marked a turning point in the history of the Palestinian and American peoples. Never again will the Palestinians wonder if they have friends in the United States. This march and others like it around the country have proven to them that they do. Furthermore, the tremendous diversity of philosophies—political and religious—amongst the people who participated (and those that were there in spirit) showed the world that Washington's war on the world is not popular here either. As a young friend and organizer summed it up on the bus back to Vermont: "This was an awesome beginning to what can be an awesome movement for freedom and justice." I say, "Let's roll." ◆

The Jade Lantern

quarterly publication of the
Green Party of South Puget Sound

summer 2002 volume ii issue ii

Welcome to the quarterly newspaper of the Green Party of South Puget Sound. You might be surprised to see it inserted in this month's *Works in Progress*. From the time the paper started during the Nader campaign in 2000, we've published as an independent, stand-alone publication every three months or so. To cut down on production costs and reach more readers, we've decided to publish an insert in *WIP* for the time being.

The organization has seen several changes in the past few months: a name change from the South Sound Greens to the Green Party of South Puget Sound, substantial by-law revisions, and a renewed focus on attracting new recruits and running candidates for local government.

In this issue, we present some important local and regional issues — including the so-called "downtown safety" ordinances, waterfront development, recent conflicts over the environment, and public transit — while providing some background information about Green Party organizing. We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Jade Lantern*. To learn more about the Greens, see the contact information in the masthead on page 2.

Think globally, act locally to build the Green Party

by Chris Stegman

The South Sound Greens recently decided to change our name to the Green Party of South Puget Sound to clarify to the community who we are and in recognition of our recent decision to affiliate with the Green Party of Washington State, and through that body, the Green Party of the United States.

The Green Party of Washington State held its founding convention in May 2000. At the time, Seattle was the only organized local. Since then, 30 of 39 counties have sprouted locals and 16 of those have affiliated with the state party. The state party is run by an elected seven-member coordinating council and this year saw its first African-American (local civil rights activist Jerome Johnson) and a Native American join the council. The upcoming biannual statewide convention will be held on May 4th and 5th in Ellensburg.

The Green Party of the United States, formerly known as the Association of State Green Parties, has 38 affiliated state parties (with another eight or so in the process of affiliating), more than 500 locals, 150 local elected officials, and 225,000 registered members nationwide.

Globally, there are more than 70 national Green Parties with federations of national parties in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe and North America. Last April, more than 800 representatives attended the first Global Greens Gathering in Canberra, Australia.

Join your local Green Party and help make a difference in our community. Our secretary recently acquired a current list of all resident voters in the 2000 federal elections; our first task will be to activate current party members and supporters to go out and recruit a significant portion of the Nader 2000 voters into our ranks.

We will be organizing such a recruitment drive for the warmer summer months and we hope those of you who are reading this — and feeling the urge to get involved in serious party building — will join us and lend a hand.

At the same time, experienced campaign strategists have stepped forward and are willing to help the Green Party run candidates if we can find any. We are actively seeking candidates to run on the Green Party ticket, so if you or anyone you know are interested, call us at our non-existent party headquarters (my phone number is 360-705-3528).

Speaking of a headquarters — last year around this time a few members were very interested in finding a suitable downtown office space. They did some initial fundraising, so we've got a headquarters fund, but no headquarters yet. If you know of any cheap office or meeting spaces please give us a jingle. Another option for us is to lease space from the Madison School Coalition if their dream to obtain the old Madison school building becomes a reality.

In the meantime, we have several local openings on the coordinating council — the administrative body of the Green Party. If you have a desire to serve and help build the local organization, please join and become involved. Each of us are learning as we go and seek more help with the myriad of tasks that need to happen to keep this baby growing. Join us!

Greens bolster A20 march on Washington

The Green Party is the party of peace for millions of Americans alienated by Congress' support of Bush administration policies.

Thousands of Green Party members were seen "Being Green" in support of the recent April 20 protest march on Washington, D.C.

Green Party members from at least 43 states — including Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon, and Washington — as well as Green Party officials from the United Kingdom, Nepal, and Peru joined the massive march, which drew tens of thousands to the nation's capital.

"We are marching because the current government has failed to accomplish its stated goals," said Ben Manski, Wisconsin, Co-Chair of the Green Party of the United States and a spokesperson for the April 20 march on Washington. "First, they failed to avoid the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. Second, they failed to apprehend the perpetrators of September 11th. Third, they failed to address the root causes of violence, which include poverty, the poisoning of the planet, and the use of violence itself. This government has failed the American people, and it's time for a new policy and a new government."

The Green Party of the United States participated in the "United We March for Peace and Justice" events as a member of the 9-11 Emergency National Network, which is itself one of seven major coalitions which organized the demonstrations. Green Party and Campus Greens members formed a joint Green contingent rally at the Washington Monument, and were visible throughout the day underneath a canopy of Green flags, signs and banners.

"We join tens of thousands of Americans in protesting this illegitimate government's ruling by anti-constitutional means, its violations of international law, and its killing of thousands of innocent people," said Anita Rios, Ohio, Co-Chair of the Green Party of the United States. "It comes as no surprise to us that this government backed the failed military coup last week in Venezuela. We remember that Bush came to power on the shoulders of a stolen election and Enron's dirty money."

The Green Party is fielding many candidates for the United States Congress and Senate in the November elections and is positioning itself as the party of peace for millions of Americans alienated by Congress' support of Bush administration policies.

The Global Greens Network — a global alliance of Green Party organizations in more than 90 nations — and the Green Party of the United States have consistently called for a legal, democratic, and socially just response to acts of terrorism.

Bush support for Sharon is criminal

Excerpts from an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, published in the daily *Davar* on December 17, 1982:

"You can call me anything you like. Call me a monster or a murderer. ... Better a live Judeo-Nazi than a dead saint."

"Even today I am willing to volunteer to do the dirty work for Israel, to kill as many Arabs as necessary, to deport them, to expel and burn them, to have everyone hate us. ... And I don't mind if after the job is done you put me in front of a Nuremberg Trial and then jail me for life. Hang me if you want, as a war criminal."

Source: Mid-East Realities (www.MiddleEast.org)

The ordinances are no solution: let the council know your opinion

correspondence from a local activist email list

As many of you know, the Olympia City Council, and Mayor Biles in particular, is stepping up its campaign for "strong city ordinances" targeting the homeless. The March 31 *Olympian* featured an editorial touting the Mayor's viewpoints and exhorting the community to "weigh in by calling or writing the city council." Subsequently, council members have received many e-mails supporting the Mayor's proposals to pass ordinances restricting panhandling, car camping and the sale of fortified wine.

The council has chosen to all but ignore the community sentiment that was expressed at their Community Conversation on February 28. At that meeting the council heard that the public is not interested and does not value targeted laws as solutions to societal problems — so they orchestrated the *Olympian* editorial to re-engineer the public debate, so they could hear what they wanted to.

We need to respond en masse letting the council know we will not stand for ordinances and actions that target the poor and homeless.

Please take the time to write the council and express your views regarding this issue. Below you will find some talking points that you can use to stimulate your thoughts. And in the sidebar is a sample letter — complete with council address.

Please do not feel obligated to write at length about these issues. A short letter expressing your ideas in your own language will help immensely, as the particular arguments may not be as critical at this juncture as the sheer numbers received by the council and the paper.

Write your letter now, or read on if you would like to explore possible talking points for your letter.

Talking Points

- The ordinances are wrong and morally repugnant because they target a specific population (the poor and the homeless) in order to benefit those with power and money.
- The ordinances are not an effective way to deal with homelessness. You can't make homelessness go away by making it illegal.
- Downtown is for everyone, not just business interests and not just for folks with disposable income.
- We live in a vibrant, diverse community that currently meets the needs of a diverse citizenship. Those in power would like to take downtown away from us by removing anyone who is "different."
- The city council's continued focus on the ordinances ignores the input of the citizenry at the community forum who sent the clear message that we are interested in real solutions to the problems of poverty.
- The police are already engaged in systematic brutality of the poor and youth in Olympia and we do not want to provide them with more tools to carry out their war against the poor.
- We do not support the shrinking of downtown non-commercial public space.
- If they want less homeless people on the street, they should provide more affordable housing, services and living wage jobs.
- The provision of services to the poor does not attract more poor people. This has been proven over and over in countless studies. Nor will the ordinances scare people away.
- Demand statistics demonstrating the "safety problem" rather than anecdotal stories from the Mayor about being "chased down the street by an aggressive panhandler." Downtown is safe! The statistics that exist show that panhandlers and the homeless are not the ones engaged in illegal behavior (which is why the City needs new laws).
- If the issue is a decline in the downtown economy, address the real issues for that decline and take real steps to support local businesses, like limiting big box chain store development.

Cut and Paste Sample Letter

To: Mayor Stan Biles, and council members Curt Pavola; Doug Mah; Laura Ware; Mark Foutch; Jeanette Hawkins; and Matthew Green.

citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us
P.O. Box 1967, Olympia, WA 98507

I am writing because I am opposed to the ordinances currently under consideration by the council that target the homeless in our community.

[INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE]

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views. Please keep me apprised of your decisions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Your Name, Your Address

cc: Letters to the Editor, *The Olympian* news@theolympian.com

Green Party of South Puget Sound

325 Washington St. NE
P.M.B 317
Olympia, WA 98501

Direct email inquiries to drewhendricks@hotmail.com
Temporary web address: www.southsoundgreens.org

Volume 2, Issue 2

The goal of *The Jade Lantern* is to provide news and information concerning the activities of the Green Party of South Puget Sound and issues in the South Sound area. **Articles reflect the judgment of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Green Party of South Puget Sound or the editor.**

Editing and layout by Keith Cotton

Articles and Green Party information collected by Chris Stegman

from the "Still trusting the mainstream media?" department

U.S. papers hail Venezuelan coup as pro-democracy move

When elements of the Venezuelan military forced president Hugo Chavez from office last week, the editorial boards of several major U.S. newspapers followed the U.S. government's lead and greeted the news with enthusiasm.

In an April 13 editorial, the *New York Times* triumphantly declared that Chavez's "resignation" meant that "Venezuelan democracy is no longer threatened by a would-be dictator." Conspicuously avoiding the word "coup," the *Times* explained that Chavez "stepped down after the military intervened and handed power to a respected business leader."

Calling Chavez "a ruinous demagogue," the *Times* offered numerous criticisms of his policies and urged speedy new elections, saying "Venezuela urgently needs a leader with a strong democratic mandate." A casual reader might easily have missed the *Times*' brief acknowledgement that Chavez did actually have a democratic mandate, having been "elected president in 1998."

The paper's one nod to the fact that military takeovers are not generally regarded as democratic was to note hopefully that with "continued civic participation," perhaps "further military involvement" in Venezuelan politics could be kept "to a minimum."

Three days later, Chavez had returned to power and the *Times* ran a second editorial (4/16/02) half-apologizing for having gotten carried away:

"In his three years in office, Mr. Chavez has been such a divisive and demagogic leader that his forced departure last week drew applause at home and in Washington. That reaction, which we shared, overlooked the undemocratic manner in which he was removed. Forcibly unseating a democratically elected leader, no matter how badly he has performed, is never something to cheer."

The *Chicago Tribune*'s editorial board seemed even more excited by the coup than the *New York Times*'. An April 14 *Tribune* editorial called Chavez an "elected strongman" and declared: "It's not every day that a democracy benefits from the military's intervention to force out an elected president."

Hoping that Venezuela could now "move on to better things," the *Tribune* expressed relief that Venezuela's president was "safely out of power and under arrest." No longer would he be free to pursue his habits of "toasting Fidel Castro, flying to Baghdad to visit Saddam Hussein, or praising Osama bin Laden."

(FAIR called the *Tribune* to ask when Chavez had "praised" bin Laden. Columnist and editorial board member Steve Chapman, who wrote the editorial, said that in attempting to locate the reference for FAIR, he discovered that he had "misread" his source, a Freedom House report.)

Long Island's *Newsday*, another top-circulation paper, greeted the coup with an April 13 editorial headlined "Chavez's Ouster Is No Great Loss." *Newsday* offered a number of reasons why the coup wasn't so bad, including Chavez's "confrontational leadership style and left-wing populist rhetoric" and the fact that he "openly flaunted his ideological differences with Washington." The most important reason, however, was Chavez's "incompetence as an executive," specifically, that he was "mismanaging the nation's vast oil wealth."

After the coup failed, *Newsday* ran a follow-up editorial (4/16/02) which came to the remarkable conclusion that "if there is a winner in all this, it's Latin American democracy, in principle and practice." The incident, according to *Newsday*, was "an affirmation of the democratic process" because the coup gave "a sobering wake-up call" to Chavez, "who was on a path to subverting the democratic mandate that had put him in power three years ago."

source: Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (www.fair.org)

Mass transit in the balance

by Chris Fuess

If you've been paying attention to the news lately, you've noticed that transportation is a hot topic — actually, *too* hot for most Washington State legislators.

Legislators barely approved a transportation proposal at midnight on the last day of the legislative session. Last year, the session was extended several times by the governor to try to get a bill approved, and they still could not manage it. This year, our elected representatives decided to put the issue to a vote of the people this November rather than risk the political consequences of signing the bill into law. But because there is an eight-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax included in the proposal, it is likely to be a very contentious vote.

In February, the State Supreme Court ruled that the portion of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) earmarked for local transit authorities was never removed when Governor Locke and the Legislature scrambled to dump the license-tab tax in favor of a flat fee of $30, even though 1999's Initiative 695 was declared unconstitutional.

To counter this, another anti-tax initiative (I-776) from Tim Eyman and his public transit-wrecking friends at Permanent Offense would retroactively repeal all local transit authority to levy vehicle excise taxes — even though voters in some counties have already voted to approve them, and other jurisdictions like Thurston County might want to in the future. The State Legislature has since caved to this pressure and clarified that their earlier "intent" had been to repeal all motor vehicle excise taxes — even local ones.

Unless I-776 passes, we still have two local options in Thurston County for increasing funding for public transportation. Intercity Transit can ask the County to place a sales tax measure on the ballot, or the county commissioners can pass a Motor Vehicle License Fee (with a maximum fee of $15 per vehicle). Whether or not the commissioners will make these moves for transportation is another question.

The scope of local transit service is changing as well. A Public Transportation Improvement Conference was convened in the beginning of April and elected officials voted 5 to 3 to reduce Intercity Transit's service area to the cites of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Yelm and their respective urban growth boundaries. The South County Special and Routes 98 and 99 with service to Tenino, Littlerock, Rochester, and Grand Mound will be discontinued as a result of the decision. Intercity Transit made a month-long attempt to gather public input, but there was little response. Fourteen people made verbal comments at a public hearing and a few more wrote, e-mailed or phoned-in comments. The reality is that although most citizens support transit (65 percent favor alternatives such as rail and transit over new roads), they are not making their voices heard.

The outcome of all these changes is very uncertain. The statewide transportation proposal scheduled for referendum this fall would use approximately 18 percent of the new transportation funds for transit and other transportation choices (disregarding the governor's own Blue Ribbon Commission that recommended spending at least a third of transportation funds on alternatives to driving).

It's obvious that many legislators are not advocating for transportation policy that is in the best interest of the citizens they represent. They could attempt to relieve the pressure on the transportation system and our ecosystem with balanced travel choices and improved access, not subsidies for cars. Instead, we're getting a package much like the Bush energy bill. It doesn't value conservation, leaves us with few choices, subsidizes wasteful practices, and uses resources at an excessive rate.

The problem is that we have too many forces acting to create a major catastrophe. Unless we begin to look into solutions now, we will be less prepared to deal with the problem later. Our task as citizens is to speak up to those who represent us and let them know about our vision of our transportation future, and begin to make it a reality by supporting what we have. Ride the bus!

Don't wall off the waterfront!

by Bonnie Jacobs

In May and June, the Olympia City Council will face one of its most important downtown development decisions in years. The council will decide on a proposal to change the zoning of nine downtown waterfront blocks to heights of five, six, and seven stories. The proposal would also increase lot coverage to 100 percent (buildings would start at the edge of the sidewalk).

The result could be massive buildings constructed from Kentucky Fried Chicken to the Heritage Fountain and on the Bayview Market and Yacht Club land. Ditto for five blocks along Columbia Street. Views of the Olympics, the Bay, the Capitol would be lost. Traffic would increase.

If implemented, this proposal would represent a radical shift in the direction of Olympia's downtown waterfront. Changes would occur simultaneously in the Comprehensive Plan and the Shoreline Master Program. After 25 years of steady progress to preserve the waterfront area for public benefit, the waterfront would be used for private gain for developers and well-off condominium owners.

Friends of the Waterfront, a group of concerned citizens, has been working to alert the public about this proposal. So far, the community response to the proposed changes has been one of overwhelming opposition.

Please become involved:

- Discuss the issue with your friends and neighbors,
- Leave a message for council members at 360-753-8450 or email citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us,
- Write a Letter to the Editor, or
- Testify at the City Council hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m., at City Hall.

The sustainability of our quality of life depends on our involvement. For more information, email Friendsofthewaterfront@yahoo.com or call 360-352-1346.

Green Party of South Puget Sound stays connected to regional environmental issues

by Chris Hawkins

Over the past several months, the GPoSPS continued to coordinate its efforts with other groups concerned about environmental and ecological issues in the Thurston County area.

GPoSPS media liaisons have participated in the Thurston Alliance for Livable Environments and Neighborhoods (TALEN), which has been working to ensure unified effort on important issues throughout the South Sound. GPoSPS has been kept informed of, and offered testimony on, the hot problems of the Shellfish Protection District in northeast Thurston County and the Black River asphalt plant in central county.

Both of those cases deal with protecting wildlife habitat (Puget Sound in the former, Black River Wildlife Refuge in the latter) but also have implications for public health, quality of life and the economy of the area's people. Our 10 Key Values point out and support the need for a better solution in both instances, for the environment and for the local communities involved. But we Greens need to work together with other groups who take the lead on particular issues, as the Black Hills Audubon Society has on the Black River asphalt plant, in order to be effective.

Working together through the network of community activists and with such groups as TALEN will amplify our voice on ecological concerns. We will also need to be an active part of larger regional efforts, such as Climate Solutions' promotion of clean energy and the transformation of Northwest economic development to focus on renewable resources and efficient technology. Joining other people's efforts, like participating in Climate Solutions' Bicycle Commuter Contest in May, leads to mutual support down the road. This way we can make some of our own initiatives, like the mercury thermometer ban, happen with greater ease and success as more people pitch in to help.

Finally, a group to keep in touch with on the political side of environmental action is Thurston Environmental Action League (TEAL). This year, TEAL is tracking the voting records of Thurston County commissioners on environmental decisions, and the GPoSPS can use that information to ensure the election of the best candidates to carry our values.

Other important issues will continue to come up, and the GPoSPS will be there to lend our name and energy to the causes for increased ecological wisdom and a forward-thinking, community basis in economic decisionmaking. Join in the effort, for a better and greener future in the South Sound.

- TALEN meets monthly, or more frequently when response to a critical issue is needed. To get involved with TALEN, become a media liaison for the GPoSPS, or contact SPEECH at 360-786-6349 or speech@olywa.net.
- Climate Solutions is a membership organization of TALEN, as well. To get involved with Climate Solutions and become involved in local or regional action on preventing global warming, call 360-352-1763.
- TEAL's accountability project results will be released later this year.

A brief history of the Green Party of the United States

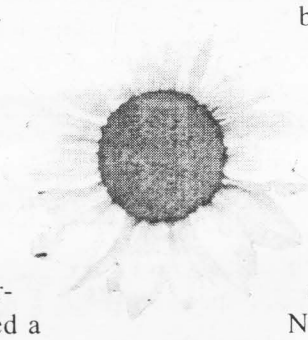
distilled from John Rensenbrink's *Against All Odds: The Green Transformation of American Politics*

One of the earliest Green formations in the United States occurred in Maine in 1984 when activists in the environmental, peace and alternative economics movements in Maine met to form a Maine Green party/ movement. In the spring of 1984, the first North American Bioregional Congress was held in Missouri. Out of this came the impetus for a national gathering held that summer in St. Paul, Minnesota which led to the formation of the "Green Committees of Correspondence" (GCOC).

Out of this came groups within the GCOC that wanted to run Green candidates, which led to the parallel development of Green Parties.

A schism took place at the June 1989 Green National Program Gathering in Eugene, Oregon between those who wanted to develop a multi-year strategy leading to active participation in the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections and those skeptical of national politics.

By 1991, Greens in many states were beginning to create statewide Green parties. A Green Party Organizing Committee (GPOC) had been formed the year before and was drawing fire from various Greens who opposed electoral politics altogether and were fearful that the party-minded Greens would get out from under the control of "movement" forces. The national gathering at Elkins, West Virginia in 1991 presaged a split in the Greens nationally.



An essentially new organization was created at Elkins to replace the Green Committees of Correspondence. Called the Greens/Green Party USA (G/GPUSA), it claimed sovereignty of both movement and party activity.

This frustrated the GPOC who then created the Green Politics Network in the spring of 1992. One of its goals was to help form an association of autonomous state Green parties.

This striving found a focus when Greens from 31 states came together just 10 days after the Nader campaign in 1996 to form the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP). By 1998 24 state Green Parties had affiliated with the ASGP.

A Unity Group formed inside the GPUSA in an attempt to bring the two national organizations together but this effort failed in 1997.

In 2000, the ASGP sponsored the national convention which led to the nomination of Ralph Nader. A unity agreement between the ASGP and GPUSA was negotiated in Boston in October 2000. Taken up the following year at the July 2001 GPUSA national congress, the "Boston Proposal" was narrowly defeated, receiving a majority of delegate votes — 99 in favor, 81 opposed — but less than the two-thirds supermajority required for passage.

Immediately following this, the July 2001 ASGP convention delegates reached consensus on the formation of the national committee of the Green Party which applied for and received recognition from the Federal Election Commission in October 2001, officially becoming the Green Party of the United States (GP/US).

Following their 2001 congress the GPUSA experienced a major split that led to the formation of the New Green Allliance in January 2002. Many former GPUSA members, locals, and state caucuses are now moving towards affiliation with the GP/US.

There are now more than 38 state parties affiliated with GP/US. To date there are 150 elected officeholders in 21 states, more than 500 locals nationwide, and about 225,000 registered Green Party members in the United States.

Those in attendance at the November 2001 Green Party of Washington State convention voted overwhelmingly to seek affiliation with GP/US. GPoWS is now actively affiliating locals that are organized in a majority of the state's counties.

The newly renamed Green Party of South Puget Sound is one of those locals that is seeking affiliation with the Green Party of Washington State and the GP/US.

Abbreviated GP/US Platform

- All people have the right to food, housing, medical care, a living wage job, education and support in times of hardship
- End corporate welfare; end the war on drugs at home and abroad
- For the legal right of all workers to organize themselves without fear of company reprisals and for collective bargaining rights for all unionized labor
- We support public funding for living wage jobs in environmental service
- Campaign Finance Reform: full public financing of elections
- Ban PACs and soft money contributions
- Proportional representation and multi-party democracy
- Abolish the electoral college for Instant Runoff Voting
- Citizen control of redistricting processes
- For universal voter registration and election day holiday
- Free TV and mail for every qualified candidate
- Statehood for the District of Columbia
- We support the right of nonviolent direct action (civil disobedience)
- For increased public transportation, playgrounds, parks
- For universal federally funded childcare
- Increase Earned Income Tax Credit for working poor
- Protect and enhance Social Security
- Cut military spending by 50 percent over 10 years, reinvest in social needs: child and family support, living wage job development and work training programs
- Convert to a peacetime economy
- Retire the "Third World" debt, support Jubilee 2000
- United States must reign in IMF/World Bank and end structural adjustments
- End the economic blockade of Cuba
- We demand that the United States support the international ban on land mines
- Full self-determination for Indigeneous peoples
- We support bilingual education, continuing education, mentoring and apprenticeship programs. We recognize home schooling, magnet schools, alternative schools
- We oppose military and corporate control over academic research in institutions of higher education
- We support tuition free post secondary public education
- Student loans available to all students attending college
- Affordable, quality and accessible health care for all Americans
- For a single payor health insurance program to cover all Americans
- Dismantle the current managed care program
- Medicaid must be protected and put on firm financial footing
- Increase wellness education and preventative health care
- Support holistic health care, alternative and complimentary therapies
- For safe, legal abortion on demand
- For an all out campaign against AIDS and HIV
- For a graduated supplemental income to maintain all above the poverty level
- For the restoration of federally funded entitlement programs
- For income tax policies that restrict the accumulation of excessive individual wealth
- We reject "workfare" as a form of slave labor
- For system wide tax reform to simplify the tax system
- Cuts corporate subsidies, export incentives, tax loopholes and shelters
- For a tax policy that encourages small businesses and socially responsible businesses
- Raise corporate taxes for progressive taxation
- We oppose the privatization of Social Security
- We advocate noncompetetive and cultural diversity models in all public school curriculum
- We advocate state-supported child care for all children under 10 when after school programs are not available
- We call for teaching nonviolent conflict resolution at all education levels
- Any attempt to combat crime must begin with restoration of community
- We oppose privitazation of prisons
- Legalize hemp
- We support decriminalization of the use of recreational marijuana
- We oppose mandatory drug testing and support alternative sentencing for non-violent crimes (community service)

A Field Trip to Jenin

Susi Abeles

Jenin is one among many "closed military zones" from which the media is barred; it considered the most devastated of the areas assaulted and occupied by the IDF in the last two weeks of its incursions into the Palestinian Territories). Reports leak out of hundreds dead and their bodies piling up in the houses and streets for lack of ability to transport them out of the camp, the wounded dying with access of medical assistance denied, houses demolished with their inhabitants still inside, hundreds of families fortunate to escape (as it were), driven out of the camp with nothing but the clothes they are wearing, those left behind destitute following the demolition of their homes and destruction of their property. Food supplies are scarce; the residents are reported to have been without fresh water for some ten days, relying now on sewage water which is also being given to babies.

Early Friday evening, as the dusk's forgiving light softened the city's streets and, just a couple of kilometres away, as city workers swept up shards of glass and washed blood away from the sidewalks where a woman had blown herself and others up only three hours earlier outside the market, I raided the large recycling cages in my neighborhood for empty water bottles. I was joining a coalition of peace groups to travel to Jenin, in the northern Palestinian Territories, to deliver water and other emergency supplies to the beseiged people of the refugee camp.

I rose with the sun on Saturday morning and mounted a battered coach, my buggy bulging with now filled water bottles. Along the way, we were briefed on how to respond in a non-violent fashion to the kind of police brutality experienced just two weeks earlier at another action --tear gas and sticks -- and what to say if we were arrested. We received a call that water cannons were sighted at the checkpoint --tools, we were reassured, that were much less painful than tear gas and blows from sticks.

We travelled two hours north, past fields of iridescent coral red poppies and into the gentle hills of the Lower Galillee. We were soon joined by dozens of other buses, from Jerusalem to Tel-Aviv and Haifa, and from neighboring towns and villages. I cried to see a few thousand others embark over the next hour, mostly Jewish and Palestinian Israelis, as well as people from various Christian "peace-keeping" groups: from Italy and Spain, France and Germany, women from Greenham Common in England and several lively Brazilians, in baseball caps bearing the emblem of their organization, who had themselves photographed in front of their bus. And the media, some in bulky bullet proof vests --from the United States, Europe, Japan and other countries and continents.

An Israeli with a video camera walked behind a photographer who was shooting for the police, irritating him with her calm challenge...

We formed human chains, working for two hours to unload supplies from the buses and packing nearly as many trucks with them; there were several thousand litres of water, hundreds of boxes of infant formula and bags of diapers, bedding and clothes. One painful altercation took place between an Israeli activist who wanted to carry the Israeli flag -- an attempt by the liberal left to reclaim it from the right --and a Palestinian enraged by the meaning it conveys. Otherwise, collaboration was realized nearly soundlessly -- signs were written, last minute supplies distributed, marshals organized us to move to this side and then to the other and suddenly we were setting off for the Salem checkpoint three kilometres away, where we hoped to be able to deliver the trucks to Palestinians waiting on the other side.

We kicked the dust into our hair and mouths, our spirits high, stirred too with the energy of young Palestinians' vigorous chants. Along the road, clusters of Palestinians resting among orchards of fruit trees waved and called out to their friends. An Israeli with a video camera walked behind a photographer who was shooting for the police, irritating him with her calm challenge -whether he wasn't ashamed to be working for them. He climbed into a military jeep and accelerated along the road; alas, we walked nearly as quickly as he was able to drive and she pursued him doggedly, poking her camera into the car and filming his license plate. A quick bright brushstroke in a vast landscape of injustice and powerlessness.

We arrived at the crest of the road where below sprawled the menacing complex that comprised the checkpoint. Soldiers with guns slung across their chests fanned out in a line across the field; behind them a tank along with several dozen various other military personnel reminded us of our small place. Our people and theirs met somewhere between our perspiring and exhilarated crowd and their ranks (I was reminded of team captains in sports). We waited for an hour, eating hungrily from donated boxes of shnitzel in pita and hotdogs in buns. A truck sold ice-cream and cold soft drinks, it's cheery song dislocated in the rubble of this terrain. Men placed signs among the rough grasses of the fields, on which they carefully knelt for the mid-day's prayer; women also settled onto pieces of cardboard and removed their shoes with relief. Knots of young men, oiled hair glistening in the sun, were tempted by the sight of the military; they advanced towards the checkpoint and then retreated as the marshals shouted at them to return to the road.

Eventually, an settlement was negotiated --we would leave and the trucks would be allowed entry through another passage. We turned around and climbed back up the road, back towards the buses that awaited us. We trudged quietly now, thinning into groups of two or three, both pleased with our success and disappointed by the non-confrontational resolution. Somehow, rage isn't satisfied with agreements reached over handshakes, --a sometimes truth seemingly obvious in this particular corner of the world ... particularly in these "disgusting days", as Israeli journalist David Grossman writes.

Susi Abeles a grade school teacher in West Jerusalem on her participation in bringing humanitarian relief supplies to Jenin Palestine. She is an active member of several Israeli activist groups that favor the complete removal of Israeli military and settler society from the occupied territories to the "Green line" of 1967.

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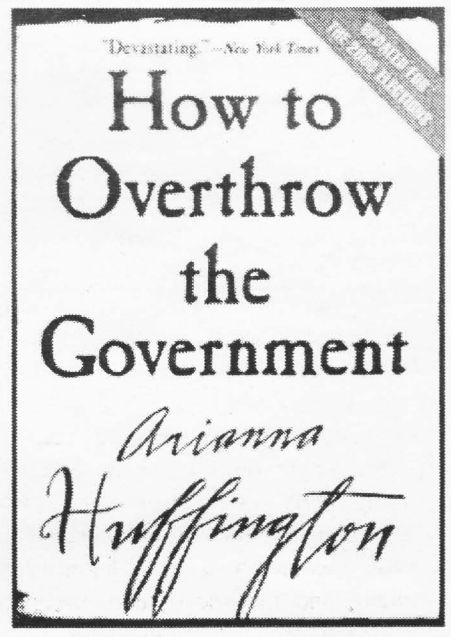
Book Review

How to Overthrow the Government



David Zink

by Arianna Huffington. (Regan Books, New York, 2000)

Arianna Huffington describes a crisis in America. "American politics is broken - under the thumb of a small corporate elite using its financial clout to control both parties' political agendas."

Danger signs

Huffington points to some signs that America is in a state of clear and present danger. Almost two out of three Americans didn't even bother to vote in the elections of 1998. Only 20% of Americans 18 to 24 voted. Fewer than half of eligible voters are even registered to vote -. According to a University of Michigan's National Election Studies poll, 64% of voting-age Americans s say that the U.S. government is run, not "for the benefit of all", but by "a few big interests". There appears to be a lack of faith in our elected leaders to do anything about our failing health care and education systems.

The chicanery of the elections of 2000 - in which thousands of votes weren't counted and the conservative-dominated Supreme Court awarded the presidency to George W. Bush - can only add to this cynicism.

Personal debt and resulting anxiety has skyrocketed. This has turned our economy into a "ticking time bomb". One family out of every 68 filed for bankruptcy in 1998 – more than saw a child graduate from college. And this was written before the onset of the recession.

From 1997 to 1999, the number of registered lobbyists in Washington, DC grew by 37% to more than 20,000. That's roughly 38 lobbyists for each member of Congress, which means that corporate influence over U.S. politics dwarfs citizen influence. Many lobbyists are former holders of political office, who use their insider's knowledge of how DC operates to work for special interests.

Nine of the top ten Senate recipients of Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions from the Health Benefits Coalition, which represents health insurance companies, voted against allowing patients to sue their HMOs. Big banking, tobacco, communications, casino, meatpacking, and other corporate interests also exercise considerable power over the legislative process. Corporate campaign contributions are rewarded by billions of dollars in subsidies, tax breaks, and other legislation favorable to them. It's not a bad deal for the corporations: the average return for every half-million dollars in contributions yields $300 million in tax breaks and other forms of corporate welfare.

"The correlation between special interest payoffs and public policy takes many forms", says Huffington. "Sometimes it kills good ideas, and at other times it paves the way for indefensible decisions." She goes on to offer some examples of both. This book was published before the ENRON collapse, an experience that provides a glaring example of what Arianna is referring to. In this case, campaign contributions bought energy de-regulation which hurt most people, while enriching a few.

"American politics is becoming a sewer, the stench of which is driving voters away from the political process," Huffington writes. "Once an intellectual battlefield of opposing beliefs and agendas, the modern political campaign has come to resemble a demolition derby. Both major corporate-financed parties steer clear of discussing the real issues, but instead offer sound bites and shallow PR, and take cheap shots at each other. The Democratic & Republican Party conventions have likewise descended into debate-free PR fests, where there's "no integrity, no principles, and no truth." The contempt all this shows for the public only deepens our cynicism with politicians, deepens voter alienation, and lowers voter turnouts.

What's the cause of all this? Huffington points to an "unholy trinity": cynical campaign consultants, tabloid media which elevates sex and scandal to prominence, and the corporate elites of both major parties. Corporate media, in an effort to compete with TV and supermarket tabloids, too often emphasize sleaze over issues. Vigorous and spirited reporting of corporate misdeeds against the public has been replaced by "smut-raking". The mass media – the dominant shaper of public opinion in America- has become dangerously concentrated into a few hands, and this has lead to a "dumbing down" and rightward shift.

The differences between the two major parties have become so narrow that they should consider changing their names to the "Pro-life Corporate Party" and the "Pro-Choice Corporate Party".

As one example of how this is corrupting America, Arianna compares the hypocrisy of the government's well-publicized "War on Drugs" vs. the reality of the legal drug corporations' peddling of Zoloft, Prozac, Paxil, and Luvox, and other anti-depressants to children. Use of these drugs by children is growing, even though no anti-depressant has yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for pediatric use.

Luvox was found in Eric Harris' bloodstream, after he opened fire on his Littleton, Colorado class-mates, killing 12 students and a teacher before killing himself in April 1999. The previous summer, Kip Kinkel, the Oregon school shooter, had been on Prozac when he killed his parents, two school children and wounded 22 others. Anthony "TJ" Solomon, the Conyers, Georgia school shooter, took Ritalin the morning of the shooting.

"In the aftermath of the Littleton Massacre, President Clinton proposed new laws to restrict the marketing of guns to children, and hosted a conference to examine the entertainment industry's marketing of violence to children, but no one planned any conference or introduced laws to deal with the marketing of mood-altering drugs to children." Few, if any, politicians of either major party has had the courage to publicly question the failing "War on Drugs" or the DARE program, or challenge the peddling of "legal" drugs and their corporate pushers. The situation cries out for better approach.

Solutions

Ms. Huffington has some modest proposals for cleaning up the political campaign cesspool, including:

"Clean-money" campaign finance reform. She discusses some ideas that would help take big steps toward reducing the corrupting chase after campaign financing, and reduce the influence of special interests.

Measures, such as California's "Oaks Project", to ban public officials from accepting contributions for five years from any private interest they took action to benefit through legislation.

Arianna has some advice to anybody considering running for public office: When confronted with the press' illegitimate probing of your personal and sex life, don't even dignify those questions with an answer. Once you get started down that path, "Nothing you say will ever be enough".

(continued next page)

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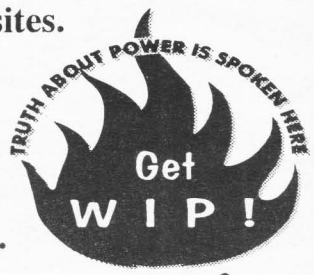
WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are a dozen or so volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly $500[00] to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands.



see page 2

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(Overthrow, continued)

She stresses the importance of volunteering more time to help our less fortunate fellows, and recommends programs like Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity, or Colin Powell's America's Promise campaign. Arianna's heart is in the right place, yet this is all a bit like re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. I wish she would have spent some time talking about the root causes of the problems she so well described, and what we can do to clean up the underlying sources of the mess America is in. Problems like the corporate dominance over the media, a weak labor movement, and the social, economic, and spiritual decay of capitalist society cry out for attention. Ms. Huffington doesn't address these root issues.

She writes about the need for same-day voter registration, and other ways to make it easier to register and vote. After raking corporations over the coals so thoroughly, I would've thought she might have a good anti-corporate "third" party to recommend. Some party that seeks to bring the monsters under popular control. But she doesn't mention the Labor Party, the Greens, the Socialists, nor any other party except for the Demopublicans & Republocrats – the twin corporate parties which she does such a great job denouncing.

She calls for a boycott – an "Intifada" – against the scandal-mongering corporate media outlets. At this point, I was hoping she would say something about non-corporate, anti-capitalist media, but she didn't. There are some excellent examples of lively, issues-oriented alternative publications, but she makes no mention of them. As a regular columnist in the *Progressive Populist* herself, her oversight on this issue puzzles me.

In her "Call to Action Directory" (Appendix B), Arianna offers a list of about 50 non-governmental service agencies and moderate reform groups that are certainly worthy of some support. Few, if any, however, have a program that would lead us to the sort of systemic overhaul of the government that the title of her book suggests. Most of these groups take a band-aid approach to curing America's ills, not the sort of radical surgery that the name of her book implies, and that we truly need. ◆

As George, Jr fights terrorism, he also...

- Cut funding for research into renewable energy sources by 50%.
- Cut funding for research into cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks by 28%
- Reduced by 86% the Community Access Program for public hospitals, clinics and providers of care for people without insurance.
- Cut $60 million from a Boy's and Girl's Clubs of America program for public housing.
- Cut $200 million of work force training for dislocated workers.
- Cut program to provide childcare to low-income families as they move from welfare to work.
- Cut a program that provided prescription contraceptive coverage to federal employees (though it still pays for Viagra).
- Cut $700 million in capital funds for repairs in public housing.
- Cut the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency by $500 million.
- Cut the Community Oriented Policing Services program.
- Refused to fund continued cleanup of uranium-slag heap in Utah.
- Refused to fund continued litigation of the government's tobacco company lawsuit.
- Cut $15.7 million earmarked for states to investigate cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Reduced the Low Income Home Assistance Program by 40%; it aided low-income individuals who need assistance paying energy bills.

Source: *Red Pepper*

Bush, Jr Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Harald T. Nesvik, a Right-wing Norwegian Member of Parliament, has nominated U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President George W. Bush for the Nobel Peace Prize for their "decisive action against terrorism". Go figure.

- Tony Blair has ordered more military actions than any U.K. leader since World War II
- George W. Bush has urged massive increases to the size and funding of the US military.
- They have shown complete disregard for multilateral consultation and diplomacy through peace congresses.
- They have initiated a war not only against Afghanistan, but an undefined, open-ended "War on Terrorism" which Bush administration officials daily threaten to expand to other nations such Iran, North Korea, and Iraq.
- Vice President Dick Cheney told the *Washington Post* that the campaign of warfare the President was launching "may never end. At least, not in our lifetimes."

Source: eskimo.com

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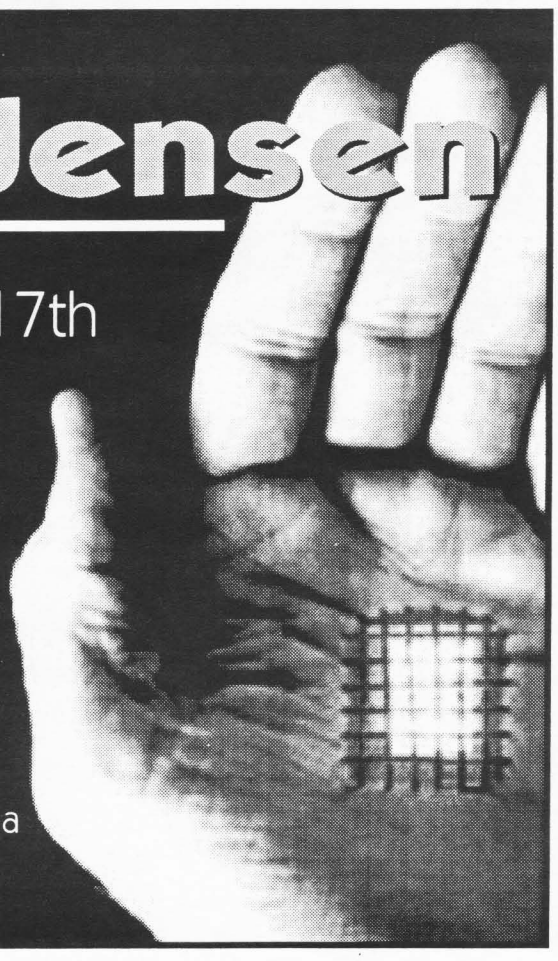

FreeSkool

Welcome to Springtime

The FreeSkool is a network for free educational opportunities throughout Olympia. We offer a host of work trade and volunteer opportunities as well as a wide range of classes taught by community members.

This Spring, The Community FreeSkool is happy to offer a series of classes on nutrition and gardening with the Olympia Food Co-ops! We are also hosting a wide range of classes from radical technology to photography to auto mechanics. Registration is underway, so please enroll by filling out our on-line enrollment form, or stop by our office during our open house on Tuesdays from 3-6pm. (Enrollment forms are also always available on Media Island's info porch, and at both the Eastside and Westside Co-ops. Please drop off any enrollment forms at the FreeSkool office.) Our office, classroom, resource center, tool library and outdoor workshop are located at the Media Island house: **816 Adams St. in downtown Olympia, across the street from Timberland library.**

========

Check out what our urban agriculture program (an ongoing class) accomplished this winter:

New for the Winter Quarter, the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Class was largely successful, in that we were able to accomplish more than we had originally set out to do, despite the cold weather. The fact that two dozen folks were interested in gardening during the month of January rain is a testament to the program. Between weekly workshops, ongoing projects, field trips, and connections with local organizations, the gardening branch of the FreeSkool curriculum is growing strong, and hopefully, sustainably. The student base is diverse in age, gardening experience, and levels of commitment. Workshops and projects are initiated by students, and are open to all.

So far this winter, we have been focusing on projects to establish the infrastructure of our gardens. We have been tending three garden plots, one at the Eastside Community Gardens, one downtown at Media Island, and one at the Westside Free Garden. We've put together a tool-share library, a reference library, and a volunteer kitchen at Media Island, to foster places for people to gather. We have built a potting station, boxbeds, a trellis, and an earth spiral, and we laid down a burm and brick path through the garden. We have had workshops on planting trees, sprouting, container gardens, and seed germination. We also had a slideshow/workshop on pruning.

To explore the complexity and diversity of what it means to garden, FreeSkool has been building connections with local businesses, farms, and other organizations in the field. We are teaming up with the Olympia Food Coop on a series of workshops on gardening and nutrition. We have lined up a workshop on composting at the Eastside Community Gardens in late May, and a workshop on native plants at the Eastside Food Coop for June. We have taken field trips to local nurseries and farms in the area, to learn how other operations function, and have more field trips planned for this Spring and Summer. We have volunteered with local organizations, such as GruB, Native Plant Salvage Project, and Food Not Bombs, and will continue our outreach by developing a working relationship with YMCA Earth Service Corps, Terra Commons, and the Permaculture Guild.

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- 1 - Crackdown on Free Speech During Artwalk & Stop Pipeline Through Olympia
- 4 - A20 D.C. Report
5 - 8 Jade Lantern Insert
- 9 - Field Trip to Jenin
- 10 - *Book Review* How to Overthrough the Government

STOP!

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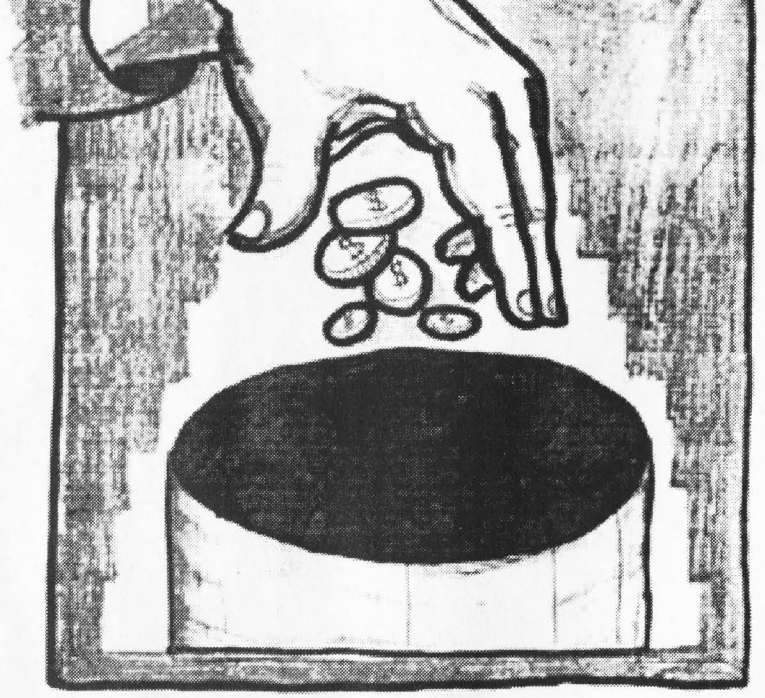

don't you think it's more patriotic to spend that money on some trivial crap at the mall?

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